RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 22nd November, 1991
1 Agrahayana, 1913 (Saka).

The House met at eleven of the clock, **Mr. Chairman** in the Chair.

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN: I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Shri O. J. Joseph, a former Member of this House from the State of Kerala from April 1980 to April 1986.

Shri O. J. Joseph, one of the top leaders of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) in Kerala, passed away on the 19th November, 1991 at the age of 77 years.

Born at Kazhakkambalam in Kerala in September 1914, Shri Joseph had his school education at St. Mary's High School, Alwaye, Kerala. An active social and political worker, Shri Joseph was a prominent trade union leader and always espoused the cause of the working class and down-trodden sections of the society.

Shri Joseph actively participated in the freedom movement and in the struggle for representative Government in Travancore. He suffered imprisonment several times for taking part in the anti-war activities during the Second World War.

He was actively associated with a number of social welfare institutions and served as President of many trade union organisations and held important positions in CITU. During his membership of this House, he pleaded the cause of toiling and exploited masses.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri O. J. Joseph. I request Members to rise in their places and observe silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for a minute.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Secretary-General will convey to the members of the bereaved family our sense of profound sorrow and deep sympathy.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Question No. 21.

SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: I have got a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN There is no point of order in Question Hour.

*21. *[The questioner (Shri Suresh Kalmadi) was absent. For answer vide col. 34*

Threat posed by Totla Doh Multi-purpose Dam

*22. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the Times of India dated the 9th September, 1991 to the effect that Totla Doh Multi-purpose Dam Project on Pench River, 25 kms from Nagpur city, is likely to pose a threat to Nagpur;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps for filling up the cavities in the Sandy rock structure on which the Totla Doh multi-purpose Dam has been built; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor and what other steps are being contemplated in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) The Government is

aware of the News item published in the Times of India.

(b) and (c) The State Government is seized of the problem and has taken progressive remedial measures and monitoring in the light of the recommendations of the Fact Finding Committee set up by them in October, 1982.

SHRI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very happy to know that the Government is aware of the news that appeared in the Times of India. But after seeing the reply of the Minister, I am, indeed, not very happy, because this reply is not up to the mark, I can say. Sir, I would just like to know from the hon. Minister whether the State Government's report on the Totla Doh Dam Project mentions about seepage at the rate of 500 mtrs. per minute from the dam reservoir during the rains when in the year 1987-88, it was at the level of 430 mtrs. The report mentions about the seepage during rainfall in the attachment area. It implies that during very heavy rains in the catchment area, the seepage or the leakage would be endangering the safety of the dam. I would just like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that while planning the dam area, it was regarded as an earth-quake-free zone. But in the year 1957 and in the year 1962, there were two earthquakes at a site 10 kms. away from the dam and an earthquake closer to the dam could result in a crack to the dam. Therefore, what steps do the Government propose to take to ensure the safety of the project in this regard?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: When this dam was being planned, the Government was aware that the geological formation in the area was given to seepage and they had, therefore, requested the Geological Survey of India to send one of their experts to be associated with the planning of the dam. The fact-finding committee appointed by the Maharashtra Government had reported that while planning the dam, the opinion of the Geological Survey of India was fully taken into account and accordingly the design of the dam was formulated. The question of seepage that has been raised by the hon. Member also engaged the attention of the fact-finding committee. The maximum seepage that the hon. Member was referring to in the year 1986-87 was 8.09 litres per second and this was observed by the Committee as well as by the Government. An impervious blanket in the upper-stream was done and the physical stability of the hills nearby was also ensured. Now the maximum seepage noticed in 1991, that is this year, —we have got the report of that—is around 9.90 litres per second. Now the corrective measures that have been taken mainly in the dam which is a masonry dam have now controlled the seepage and I can assure the hon. House and the Member that there is absolutely no danger to the towns of Nagpur or Kanki or anywhere else because of this dam. As far as the seismic problems are concerned, it is a fact that two seismic quakes were felt near the dam but the design was made in such a manner that the reservoir competency and the seismic resistance design were built in this dam. Therefore, the Member can be assured that there would be on such problem in future from this dam either from seepage or from seismic shock.

World Bank Observations regarding Agricultural growth in the country

23. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:†
SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank, in its report has made certain observations regarding growth of agriculture in the country and have made some suggestions for revi-

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Kamala Sinha.